

2006 Grants

South and Central Asia: 13 projects

Name of Organization: Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW)

Subject: Encouraging compliance with judicial orders through greater citizen participation

Location: Eugene, OR

This project examines similarities and differences in compliance and enforcement of judicial orders in the environmental field in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The project activities include workshops on compliance and enforcement of judicial orders in each of the five countries for 100 legal professionals; a regional follow-up conference in India for four to six participants from each country; and a ten-day U.S. program on U.S. practices for one or two participants from each country. Participants are also preparing, publishing and disseminating a comprehensive guidebook reviewing the cases examined during the course of this project, examining how participants might apply the lessons learned in their respective countries.

Country(ies): Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Women for Afghan Women

Location: Flushing, NY

Subject: Developing entrepreneurial skills for women: The Apprentice Road Trip

This grant expands opportunities for Afghan women to achieve self-sufficiency through entrepreneurial activities. The program consists of three-week internships for twelve Afghan women in non-traditional and non-handicraft industries at U.S. businesses. While in the U.S., the participants are working with U.S. businesswomen to develop business work plans. U.S. and Afghan participants are also engaging in a mentoring relationship to enhance the growth and development of the resulting Afghan businesses.

Country(ies): Afghanistan

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: NY

Theme(s): Business, Women's Empowerment

Name of Organization: World Learning

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Strengthening professional standards in the media

This grant supports the improvement of journalistic coverage in Nepal of government accountability and transparency. The program consists of twelve Nepali journalists meeting in Katmandu for a two-day workshop, then traveling to the U.S for a five-week program, including a three-week internship at local media outlets across the country. The program concludes with the participants gathering for a train-the-trainer seminar at the Nepali Press Institute for the original participants and 100 of their peers.

Country(ies): Nepal

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Media, Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Legacy International

Location: Bedford, VA

Subject: Encouraging responsible governance, civic education and citizen participation

This grant supports a training program on the development of democratic institutions and good governance in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic. The program consists of two visits by seven U.S. experts to the three Central Asian nations and the travel of approximately 12 government representatives, educators, NGO leaders, and youth advocates to Virginia and Washington, D.C. for three-weeks of trainings and presentations. The program exposes participants to principles of strategic planning, democratic decision-making processes, and human resource management as practiced in the U.S., and examines how participants might apply these approaches in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Country(ies): Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: VA

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Name of Organization: Plymouth State University

Location: Plymouth, New Hampshire

Subject: Strengthening educational linkages with Pakistan

This project is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of secondary school administrators in the area of research design and implementation. Project activities include a five-week training institute for 15 participants in New Hampshire; an evaluation of the past three previously funded programs; follow-on workshops with project alumni; and collaboration between the alumni of this project and the alumni of other ECA supported Pakistan projects.

Country(ies): Pakistan

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: NH

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: The University of Louisville

Location: Louisville, Kentucky

Subject: Fostering dialogue on scholarship and practice: Faith and Community

The University of Louisville is building on a markedly successful exchange of South Asian Muslim clerics, scholars of religion, and community activists and their American counterparts to deepen an intense dialogue and take it to a higher level, at which sustained, concrete collaborative projects will be developed and implemented. The project includes an exchange of 28 South Asians from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh and 14 Americans over the course of two years. Opportunities for dialogue in each country allow participants to discuss developing sustainable linkages between individuals and institutions in South Asia and the United States.

Country(ies): Bangladesh, India, Pakistan

Region: South and Central Asia

U.S. State: KY

Theme(s): Faith & Community

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: American Center for International Labor Solidarity

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Implementing exchanges for labor leaders in eight countries in multiple regions

The American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS) is implementing the following exchanges: U.S. study tour to Algeria; U.S. study tour to the Ukraine; U.S. study tour to Kenya; African Telecommunication Trade Unionists study tour to the U.S.; U.S. study tour to Oman; U.S. study tour to Colombia; U.S. study tour to China; U.S. study tour to India; Brazilian study tour to U.S.; African Trade Unionists study tour to U.S.; and scholarships for foreign trade union leaders to study at the George Meany Center.

Country(ies): Algeria, Ukraine, Kenya, Oman, Colombia, China, India, Brazil

Region: Africa, Near East, South and Central Asia, Western Hemisphere

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Institute for Representative Government

Location: Washington, DC

Subject: Providing parliamentary study missions and democratic development in countries in multiple regions

The Institute for Representative Government is arranging and monitoring a series of highly targeted, well-timed parliamentary study missions that can provide critical impetus to parliamentary and democratic development initiatives. Specifically, IRG is implementing the following: 1) Balkans: Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro - Constitutional Change and Legislative Reform Program ; 2) Uganda and Liberia - Disability Awareness and Advocacy Program ; 3) Ukraine - Political Party Caucus Strengthening Program; 4) Kazakhstan - Constituent Services Program; 5) Kyrgyzstan - Parliamentary Development Program; 6) Yemen - Budget Monitoring Program; 7) Sri Lanka - Strengthening Parliamentary Processes Program; 8) Egypt - Government Opposition Relations Program and; 9) Democratic Republic of Congo - Legislative Committee Strengthening and Peace Program.

Country(ies): Kosovo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Uganda, Liberia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo

Region: Africa, Europe, Near East, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: University of Louisville

Location: Louisville, KY

Subject: Developing aspects of democracy in five Asian nations

This grant consists of three start-up projects that will initiate a Center for Asian Democracy at the University of Louisville. The start-up projects are being carried out from September 1, 2006 through September 1, 2009, by which time an endowment will be returning income for the Center's operation. Per its title, this project focuses on different aspects of democracy building in five different Asian countries. It is divided into three separate, multi-year projects. Countries are (1) Kazakhstan, (2) Vietnam and Laos, and (3) China. The Kazakhstan project is to train participants on how NGOs can work more effectively with legislators. The Vietnam/Laos project begins with training and workshops in-country conflict resolution among government actors and between them and citizens. Its second part has some five Southeast Asians coming to the US for Master's degrees in related fields. The China project aims at studying and promoting Chinese democracy at the margin of political power: legislatures at lower levels, especially those outside of the nation's major centers.

Country(ies): Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Laos, China

Region: East Asia and Pacific, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: KY

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Ohio Northern University

Location: Ada, Ohio

Subject: Building up skills for lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to strengthen democratic institutions in their countries

Summary of Project: This grant brings 12 young lawyers from the Middle East, Central Asia and Eurasia to the U.S. for a ten-month LL.M program, designed to provide them with the skills for building stable democratic institutions in their countries. In addition to completing two semesters of class work, the students attend four weekend seminars on women's rights, transition from one-party rule, international criminal law and post conflict resolution, led by visiting experts. The program also includes field study trips to local, state and federal judicial and government organizations.

Country(ies): Multiple

Region: Europe, Near East, South and Central Asia

U.S. State: OH

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: Sister Cities International

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Supporting Sister City partnerships in over 130 countries

Sister Cities International (SCI), which promotes mutual understanding among citizens of the U.S. and abroad through the activities of the 1,300 U.S. cities affiliated with more than 2,400 sister cities in 137 countries around the world, acts as a coordinator and catalyst in the development of various types of sister-city programs. This grant partially supports SCI functioning as a clearinghouse to gather, analyze and disseminate information and work directly with community leaders and citizen volunteers, as well as elected officials.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: The American Council of Young Political Leaders

Location: Washington, D.C.

Subject: Implementing two-week exchanges for young political leaders

The American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) supports the development of democratic practices and productive, ongoing contacts between politically active individuals in the United States and their overseas counterparts by coordinating a series of exchange programs for U.S. and foreign participants. These exchanges directly support the Department's U.S. strategic goal to open political systems and societies to democratic practices, the rule of law, good governance and respect for human rights. ACYPL is implementing a series of two-week study tours, involving up to 30 delegations of seven to twelve members each.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: DC

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: University of Alaska

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Subject: Supporting the implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference

The University of Alaska is implementing a variety of activities designed to address the preparation, planning and implementation of the Ninth International Permafrost Conference. Specific activities include (1) the conference, to be held June 29-July 3, 2008, on the University of Alaska-Fairbanks campus and which focuses on issues associated with understanding permafrost evolution and its feedback to climate change; (2) the operation of the Education and Outreach Coordination Office, which supports activities related to the International Polar Year (IPY), including the travel of U.S. specialists to IPY activities abroad; and (3) the creation of a "Think-tank of the North"--a set of public seminars given around Alaska by prominent scientists, policy makers, and authors who have focused on understanding and adapting to the ongoing challenges the Arctic faces.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: AK

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project

Name of Organization: World Affairs Council of Oregon

Location: Portland, Oregon

Subject: Creating international connections in three cities and towns outside of Portland, Oregon

This grant supports the World Affairs Council of Oregon's efforts to increase that state's international connections in education, business, government and the non-profit sector in the cities and towns outside of metropolitan Portland. Project activities include the development of three regional centers in Medford, Pendleton and Bend; visits by international visitors at each center; outreach to schools; strengthening of adult discussion groups; and website development.

Country(ies): Worldwide

Region: Multiple

U.S. State: OR

Theme(s): Democracy & Governance

Congressional interest project